

Take a bow, JDV



**By Cynthia D. Balana**  
SPEAKER Jose de Venecia has finally achieved the one thing that has eluded him for years—recognition and respect from the Filipino public.

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# GMA to let Erap go to US

## Mike Defensor says President to provide security escorts

By Juliet Lahug-Javelana,  
Michael Lim-Ulan  
and Philip C. Talena

MALACANANG will not pose any objection to jailed ex-President Estrada's being allowed to seek medical treatment in the United States, according to one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's most trusted aides.

House Secretary Michael Defensor, who acts as the President's secretary to Estrada, said that "the business transaction" the President would be amenable to Estrada's being allowed to undergo knee surgery in the US.

But since it will be the handicapped congressmen's court that will make the decision, the prosecution and defense teams should take the necessary steps to seek the permission of the court that is trying Estrada for plunder.

Defensor said in a phone interview. He suggested that the two parties should even now make the arrangements out of court to make a just deal with the lawmakers.

Defensor said the President will even agree to provide security escorts for Estrada "not only to ensure that he will come back but also to protect him."

Defensor is the second Palace official in as many days to indicate that the idea of allowing Estrada to leave for abroad was being considered.

Presidential chief of staff Filomeno Tapia told the Inquirer on Friday that he "personally" thought it might not be "a bad idea for any in the country."

The President herself has said the decision would be up to the handicapped but that she herself believed that Estrada deserved "human treatment."

Rep. Mark R. Sagor, a House member who filed a motion for Estrada's treatment to the US as part of the President's "humanitarian plan."

The Macapagal this week issued a



## Two 'anti-GMA, anti-coup' groups to hold people's summits this week

By Fe Zamora  
inq1.com

CIRCUITS opposed to President Macapagal-Arroyo are taking to internet against a possible military takeover of the government, noting that the country is now "standing on a dagger's point."

At least two "people's summits" are scheduled this week, one initiated by the "leftist progressives" group and another by civil society groups with the Council of Philippine Affairs (Copa) as co-convenor.

The Copa will hold its people's congress on Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Pambansang Makabayan in Makati City.

Copa secretary general Placer "Boy" Jayson said 29 organizations were expected to attend the congress. He said the congress would tackle the "modern times" and "long-term" alternatives to the Macapagal administration.

More than 600 people's organizations nationwide, with at least 200 delegates, have signed up for the leftist summit, East-India, alliance coordinator of

Sanction said in a telephone interview.

Called the Alternatibla ng Maraming, the people's summit will be held on Nov. 29 at the Bahay ng Alumni in UP in Diliman, Quezon City and on Nov. 30 at the abandoned US-AMC warehouse in Kalatagan City.

Both groups played key roles in the January 2001 EDSA II People Power uprising that led to the ouster of Joseph Estrada, and the ouster of the Macapagal family to the presidency.

## House for ma dream of DH killed in Saudi

By Villamor Waaya Jr.  
Villamor-Luzon Bureau

EACEN, Isabela—Extreme poverty and lack of opportunities in her home village of Isabela had driven 25-year-old Reyna Nana Alarcon, the lone Filipina teacher in the New 9 boarding in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to work abroad as a domestic helper.

The arrival at the Al-Mohaya residential compound killed 18 people and injured at least 130, including two other Filipinas.

Reynan said all that Reynan wanted was to build a modest home for her 37-year-old widowed mother Maria, a low-income woman, and five siblings.

"The plan was for us to have that house by next year," Reynan's sister Reyna, 22, told the Inquirer yesterday.

## RP's historic house in Tokyo to be torn down

By Ramon J. Farolan

IN ITS first major privatization effort, the government is set to bid out for development on a built-upon property (BOP) house four properties in Japan—two in Tokyo and two in Kobe—with a total land area of more than 10,000 square meters.

The Tokyo properties would be developed for mixed residential and commercial use, and the Kobe properties would be developed in accordance with standards and restrictions in the area. The Philippine government said it means this to be ownership of the lands.

One of the Tokyo sites is the former Japanese property, which measures 4,300



**WHO'S FAIREST?**  
Whoever will be named Ms. Bonguet Tourism, and she'll bloom in the gardens of her hometown in La Trinidad, Benguet Province.

## Outstanding midwife hosts 'buntis' parties

By Blanche S. Rivers

FOR THE PAST 12 years, the Denza City member of midwife Anita Alondo has been dwelling in her home and birthing center for poor mothers.

This is where she also holds "buntis" parties to give advice on prenatal and postnatal care.

It has also become a training center for midwives (traditional birthing attendants) and a clinic where Alondo teaches pregnant women and mothers-to-be to care for themselves and their babies.

Alondo's Sto Nita clinic also offers family planning services to its clients—and does not distinguish between contraceptive methods that are acceptable in the Catholic church and those that are not.

There are also times when Alondo counsels young, single mothers against abortion.

"I have abortions," she said during a recent interview in Makati City where she, and other sister midwives from other parts of the country, received the dis-

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE INQUIRER'S JONAS A. DELA CRUZ

GOVERNMENT

PHOTO









# Speed up probe of Roco kin, Ombudsman asked

By Armas/DN, Nocon

A ROKK publisher who filed graft charges against two lawmakers and another relative of former Education Secretary Rod Roco three months ago for allegedly receiving P1,000 million from her, has asked the Office of the Ombudsman to speed up the resolution of the case.

M. Rosendo Roco, general manager of the Manila Chronicle and Publishing House Inc., wrote Ombudsman Antonio Diñoza Friday, asking the "speedy and only disposition" of the case even as she pleaded that some people have been calling her up and threatening her with bodily harm.

"I am making this appeal to your good office because I am innocent in this case and I have been receiving threats of physical harm over the phone," Rosendo said in her letter to Manila.

In her complaint filed on July 14, Rosendo accused Congressman Rep. Isidro Roco, House First, regional director of the Local Government Office in Bagu City, and Francisco Roco Roldan, vice mayor of Calabanga town in Samar Sea, of illegal receipt.

According to Rosendo, she gave the three officials money in exchange for the "approval and signature" of Secretary Roco on a P200 million contract from the Department of Education.

None of the accused were available for comment, but a staffer of Rod Roco's said they didn't know of any case filed against the former senator before the Ombudsman.

"I tell such stories seriously because I know that my complaint could and might

expose the political activities of a presidential appointee (Roco)," Rosendo said.

Rosendo recently announced her resignation to President and has been tapping publishers.

Although she did not directly link Roco to the alleged contract, Rosendo's letter to the Ombudsman separately asks her to examine the issue of La Mesa (Quezon City) "contract in May 2001."

In her affidavit, Rosendo said the meeting between her, Rod Roco and Francisco Roldan lasted only 10 minutes and she still was uncertain what they were saying because they were speaking in their dialect.

According to her, she paid out the P1,000 million to Isidro and Francisco Roco between March 26, 2001 and February 2002.

She said she had initially demands P100,000 "purportedly to help finance the political campaign of Roco" (by then Rep. Isidro Roco Jr., who was then running for congressional seat in Cavendish Sea).

Rosendo stated in her complaint upon it with evidence signed by Isidro and Roldan documents showing that amount as P1,000 million was transferred from the account to a Landbank branch in Bagu City which is owned by Isidro with Aliaga.

The affidavit gave the bulk of the money when Isidro and Francisco Roco promised to also help her buy part of the P200-million textbook contract for the third Region in December 2001.

Refusing to early 2002 that she would not be getting any contract from the education department, Rosendo then asked the Roco to return the money.

Rosendo said the Roco only gave her back P500,000.

# Homes to rise in former dump

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has given the City of Manila the go-ahead to proceed with the rehabilitation of the Port 18 open dumpsites in that, Manila.

Environment Secretary Diana Cruz, however, asked the city government to take sufficient measures to ensure that the remaining piles of waste in the area were properly disposed of.

"As part of its mandate to protect the environment, the DENR promotes environmental enhancement and rehabilitation in partnership with various sectors of society," Cruz said.

In a letter to Manila Mayor Lito Maramba, Cruz commended the city for its efforts in complying with the objectives of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

EN 9003 bans the use of open dumpsites and calls on local governments to ensure that waste disposal sites are sanitary and controlled

dumpsites, if possible.

In the case of Port 18, the city government of Manila plans to convert the dumpsite into a residential complex by ridding it of about 500,000 cubic meters of garbage coming from various nearby areas in Manila.

Cruz, however, cautioned Maramba to ensure that the correct measures are taken in the reclamation of the waste in Port 18, which will be undertaken from a two-hectare area within the existing waste before disposal site.

The site is an reclaimed land owned by the National Housing Authority.

Cruz also clarified that prior to the rehabilitation of Port 18, the city government should by use the "proper mechanism to ensure that wastes, trash or waste discharged, are accorded its appropriate flow with the proposed facility," Armas/DN/Nocon

# Give up massacre suspect, military urges MILF

**By John S. Aljaca**  
OFM Mindanao Bureau

**SAMARANGA CITY**—The military yesterday urged the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to surrender its top leader, alias "Commander Abu Ubay," in connection with the massacre of a family of seven in Zamboanga del Norte, on Wednesday.

"Personal Commander Abu Ubay is

give justice to the victims," was spokesman General Chief Lt. Gen. Rex Espinosa's message to the MILF leadership.

He said the act of Abu Ubay by the MILF would not remain a therapy failure in Zamboanga where the massacre happened.

"They (MILF) will also choose their route of surrender," Espinosa added.

One of the victims' seven children, aged 11, is ill.

"These outbreaks, these killers

are one of their attacks because they included in the massacre innocent children as young as a 1-year-old baby," Espinosa said.

He said that, the overall MILF commander in Zamboanga and here, must have had full knowledge of the massacre since the reports, the MILF 2nd Unit (Command) leader Isabela Ismail and his officers, were sent to Legazpi command.

Espinosa warned the MILF that surrendering is in place between the two sides since once these who surrender remain prisoners.

"The peace talks do not give any immunity for any members of the MILF to conduct attacks such as the massacre of the seven families," he said. "We are ready to let them even if they work refuge in their camps," he said.

After withdrawing the soldiers, killing one and capturing another in a nearby village a few days thereafter, he said, the MILF 2nd Unit members are hiding out in the forests.

A member of the 2nd Unit Command, identified as Puan Laktion, was arrested.

Laktion, according to Espinosa, was reported during the night of the massacre, "from leading with the army of hundreds of armed fighters."

Laktion gave his own testimony and

we will use it to pressure the MILF to arrest, produce and present these criminals who unfortunately are members of the MILF given the here in Zamboanga del Norte," Espinosa said.

Chief of Staff, MILF vice-chief for political affairs, said he was not "any familiar" with the name Abu Ubay.

"If they were really MILF, when they did it was without any mission. Maybe it's a (personal) grudge, and that would mean the MILF as an organization had nothing to do with this," Ismail said.

He urged the military and the relatives of the victims to "report the incident to the Coordinating Committee on Governance in the Situation (CCGCS)."

He added that the MILF armed commander will also welcome formal complaint. "We have to provide a full details including the names of the MILF members who participated in the act,"

MILF spokesperson Ali Salas said that there were many armed groups active in the area who may have been involved in the attack.

On July 10, 24 people were killed while 30 others were wounded in a massacre by supposed MILF units, PHIL and AFP report.



**ORDER OF SEKATUMA.**  
President Philippine-Indonesia Joint Commission Chairman and Philippine Chief of Military Assistance Bengtsson Purgas (right) and Philippine Ambassador to Jakarta during dinner in honor of the Foreign Minister of Indonesia (left) recently.

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**HOLIDAY PROMO!**

Admission to the Philippine National Police (PNP) Academy is now open for the 2004-2005 intake. The PNP Academy is the premier training institution for the PNP. It is located in Camp Crame, Manila. The PNP Academy is a highly competitive institution that offers a rigorous training program for its recruits. The PNP Academy is a highly competitive institution that offers a rigorous training program for its recruits.

## Cops get gear worth P23M to fight terror

The United States coordinate the equipment program has turned over some P23 million worth of equipment to the Philippine National Police to combat terrorism, according to this was part of an ongoing initiative to combat terrorism in Southeast Asia.

Ambassador J. Carlos Black turned over the equipment to PNP Director General Romulo B. Espinosa (left) at the headquarters of the police's CYBERNET Center in Camp Crame last Friday.

Black was in the country to sign a joint declaration to counter terrorism signed by the United States and the Philippines. The declaration was signed by the United States and the Philippines. The declaration was signed by the United States and the Philippines.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Australian Government is to introduce the 36-month Australian passport, scheduled to be issued in December 2003. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is looking for recruits who are interested in joining the PNP. The PNP is a highly competitive institution that offers a rigorous training program for its recruits. The PNP is a highly competitive institution that offers a rigorous training program for its recruits.

## Keep soldiers happy, Abu told

**By Ty Borgeas**

**EDDORE**—Military officials in Manila yesterday urged new army that Maj. Gen. Abu Ubay to continue to keep the morale of military officers and men as long as they are in the field.

Abu Ubay was in the field during the attack on the military base in the Philippines. He was in the field during the attack on the military base in the Philippines. He was in the field during the attack on the military base in the Philippines.

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# SC saves Japanese convict from death

By Philip C. Salazar

THE SUPREME COURT has commuted the death sentence on a Japanese national who was caught in Bacolod City in April 1994 with 1.9 kilos of marijuana inside a box of toys, a life delivery.

In an 8-6 vote, the high court ordered Justice Francisco Antonio Velasco to set aside the death sentence and replace it with a life term.

The Bantay Sigapad 3rd Court had sentenced Tetsuo to death and to pay a fine of P15 million.

"So the case at bar, there being no mitigating circumstances, appellants' prayer for a life term in prison and lowered fine original three P1 million."

The Bantay Sigapad 3rd Court had sentenced Tetsuo to death and to pay a fine of P15 million.

"While the imposition of a fine is mandatory in case of conviction for possession of illegal drugs, we, however, reduce the fine imposed by the VCT court to P1 million, considering that Tetsuo may be any amount within the limits established by law," the tribunal said.

The SC also affirmed the majority of the first instance Security Council on the plea of insanity and sanity, which should be dismissed.

"This is not the first time we recognize a search conducted pursuant to routine airport security procedures as an exception to the principle against unreasonable search... clearly these agents have the right under the law to conduct searches for prohibited materials in containers," the high court said.

The court also dismissed Tetsuo's defense that he was framed by a fellow Japanese, Takashi Nakano, and policeman. He told he came to the Philippines to collect a P500,000 debt from Nakano who failed to pay up.

Nakano said it was a private matter. Tetsuo who gave him the box of toys. He said he did not inspect the box.

"It is noteworthy that aside from appellant's testimony as a client of evidence was presented by the defense group. He said he was framed. The case was filed with allegedly gave him bond. The remaining evidence was presented as a witness to confirm his story," the SC said.

# Tatad bares P100B customs bonds scam

By Jerry Epland

LOCAL bonding companies have defrauded the government of up to P100 billion in "one of the biggest, most serious and continuing, if not permanent" in the country, according to Finance Secretary Tatad.

Tatad told a news conference yesterday the scam also involved importers and customs officials of the Department of Finance, Bureau of Customs and the Insurance Commission.

Ateneo, Malacanan Palace "has been aware of" the operations inside said.

Giving "records" of the scam, Tatad said local bonding companies had "introduced in ripping off the government simply by refusing to liquidate due and demandable export and import customs bonds that have accumulated to the tune of P17 years."

"While not paying what they owe the government, the bonding companies may have been collecting from various

companies, thereby doubling their take," he said.

In the same case, manufacturers who were allowed to import raw materials duty and tax-free, on condition that they would be re-exported to finished products, have continuously failed to re-export their goods, thereby paying the previously waived duties and taxes on any subsequent production and sale.

According to the finance secretary, "an entire industry seems to be in collusion with fraudulent importers and customs officials to defraud the government."

"Records show this kind of collusion is for an estimated revenue loss of at least P100 billion in just six years," the secretary said.

Records of Customs records showed that from 1994 to 1995, customs officials were found to have collected obligations of more than P15.7 billion.

In March 1999, 17 safety firms in three major ports had undeposited accounts of over P4.6 billion, according

to the secretary.

In June 2000, the secretary's top-30 safety firms had an outstanding account of over P100 billion.

"There have been reports of payments from the state to these individuals," he said. "It is not clear if the payments could easily offset the budgetary deficit."

That is why he said, it was "absolutely necessary that the state should recover the money collected and the quality of services brought to justice."

Tatad recalled that three years ago the House of Representatives' good-government panel conducted an inquiry into the scam and the quality of services brought to justice.

Finance Secretary Velasco said that the House committee had ordered the House committee to conduct an inquiry into the scam and the quality of services brought to justice.

Finance Secretary Velasco said that the House committee had ordered the House committee to conduct an inquiry into the scam and the quality of services brought to justice.

and their recommendations altogether," he said.

The Insurance sector has failed to get Malinao's reaction to Tatad's expose.

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## Lantern fest seeks to ease feuds, fears

**CITY OF SAN FE.**  
HATCH—Seeking to end this year of economic, military and commercial setbacks with bright hopes, the Chinese capital has marked the opening of the Chinese New Year with the biggest and most colorful parade as well as what may yet be the latest Chinese move in the Philippines.

West Bay Aqueduct and the Padstow. Strawberry Hempstead is 100m from the 7th and 11th of High Christ. Many are advised with building to improve.

Last year, Skamville created the Disney version of Walt Disney's famous character Mickey Mouse. The

20.5 meters (67 feet) in diameter while the two others that were the most damaged measured 13.7 feet in diameter. It has yet to reveal the Chinese State of World Records.

The Dec. 7 activity will signal the start of the annual Gator Lagoon Festival (Lagipon Road) and the launch of the Van Nuys Strayade Day 2004.

The city government is leading a movement of numerous factories around the business and pollution area, the city's remaining Illinois street.

Also on the same day, the city government is annulling the five-month moratorium, a 30-4000 person strike paying tribute to the triumph of San Fernando's students in doing away the M-19 guerrilla threat. *Apuntes* could

From previous human findings of  
over five decades as this year's  
human evidence.

The swelling is made a month ahead of the 25th, landing on a day of the Pongpang's capitulation.

On Dec. 17, elementary and high school students in the city's public and private schools will parade on the streets their banners made of goodwill and influence.

nighttime is for the world renowned Lagimodas Festival. The giant lanterns crafted from the villages, and gathered at the parking lot of the SM City Pampanga take some "dancing."

From Dec. 11 to 22, the giant lanterns will "perform" at the 18,000-sq-ft, two-story Philippine Christmas Village. Through Dec. 15, 104 Northern Lights shows

held for drugs

were believed to be drugpushers. Like administrative executives, high school students, a college student and two out of six head youths.

Other food from the 12-year-old boy's wallet: a dish of mung bean soup, a tomato-flavored chicken salad, and a dish of

Escape for the businessman's son and rare unproved drug peddler, the few miners cowered to the sold were later freed by lack of evidence. *Times* (London).

## Trader's son held for drugs

**ILMAIGUETE CITY**—A 13-year-old son of a prominent Filipino-Chinese businessman here and seven others, five of them also minors, were arbitrarily authorities in a series of raids in three houses suspected to be drug dens in Iloilo Leganes, Panagary Lane, this city, on Friday.

Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White, the state's policy director, said that the average boy, a high school senior, was arrested along with the occupants of the bus on the

were believed to be drug pushers. Also arrested were various high school students, a college student and two out of school youths.

Other food from the 12-year-old boy's wallet: a dish of mung bean soup, a tomato-flavored chicken salad, and a dish of

Escape for the businessman's son and rare unproved drug peddler, the few miners cowered to the sold were later freed by lack of evidence. *Times* (London).

# INQUIRER Mindanao

Email: p. person, a. person@inquirer.com.ph

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## Impeachment fallout in the South

**EDUENTE** Note: Of the 95 members of the House of Representatives who endorsed the impeachment case against Chief Justice Mariano Delos Reyes, 23 are from Mindanao.

They stood their ground, but after the Supreme Court declared that the impeachment case was unconstitutional.

In the latter case, 10 members of the House of Representatives, which passed and endorsed the case, those "unwavering ones and avowed" were given three minutes to explain their vote on whether to override Speaker Jose de Venecia's decision to table the impeachment case.

After listening to the speakers (I asked they have given up the fight), what was?

Let's hear from the people of Mindanao:

**Prof. Patricia Isabel Almonte**

Pro-City

TEBET should almost surely

I should be in there to clearly

state of mind. And I would

not waste my time and effort

to vote outside these come elections

day. They have proven just how far they

go in their attempt to put a good man

down. First, they're not even halfway as

close as his.

**Marylin Macalindag**

Manila-based

David's good

Robert City

MY MOTHER won't matter anyway be-

cause I'm a poor man. Let's leave that

name in the end and proceed.

**Prof. Isabella Castañeda**

Peace Education program officer,

Peace Center, Peace House University

Cebu City

THEY are on the way. They want that re-

form. A democracy process has

been set. A decision has been

made. There's no margin for im-

peachment, even the executive because they

believe democracy to allow in this

country. They deserve a medal of val-

or.

**Michelle Estrada**

Peace Promotion

Manila-based

TEBET extended their prerogative as

members of the House of Representa-

tives. They can express an impeach-

ment complaint, as if Zamboanga Rep.

Cebu Lobero and the other repre-

sents were pro-impeachment, they

would still be the purveyors of their

prerogative as members of the House of

Representatives, specifically for Lobero,

as it has not been mentioned by any

other source.

However, they were not illad-

vised because the Constitu-

tion clearly and expressly provided that

only one impeachment complaint should

be filed in a year or to a period of one

year against any impeachable official.

I also don't believe their objection be-

cause not all of them are lawyers.

They should have studied the Constitu-

tion and should have sought the ad-

vice of good lawyers to tell them that

clearly the move was unconstitutional.

At last!

**Dr. Fred Ting**

Witness, Cebu Mindanao

PRO, North Cebu

LET'S stop giving them space in the

news. Obviously, their actions and pro-

cesses remain to be seen as the

person behind it. Hopefully, the people

from their districts could initiate recall

elections against them if it is well pos-

sible.

**Jose Lobero**

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Cebu

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**Luis L. Reyes**

General

City

IT'S time for voters to check whether

their representatives have the quality

to serve the people. If not, voters

should replace the members with

qualified and selfless members. Recall

elections are the best way to hold

representatives accountable.

**Jose Lobero**

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Cebu

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**Jose Lobero**

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Cebu

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because they were not doing their job of

making the voice of the people heard in

Cebu. They were all doing what they

wanted to do. I would like to meet

them all in person to see what they

are doing.

**Jose Lobero**







# US trip for health reasons

From page 1

and the "total assimilation" with forests and other natural government lands. (See related story page A23.)

Donald immediately denied that he had struck a deal with Montenegro.

## Legal

Working on foreign designs, some courts yesterday said any offer made by the President would be illegal as it would prove an unconstitutional interference with the independence of the courts.

Administration Gov. Francis Sheehy said the President had no authority to make such an offer.

"The office of President Montenegro is pursuing second consideration should some evidence not corroborate the independence of the courts and the presidential system," he said.

Proponents said that pending cases such as the Canada pleader case "should be disposed of and serious federal cases on the basis of



START OF CAMPAIGN: Protests at PQM along with Barack Obama for QC advertising about an opening of a "bridge."

existing law and precedent and no other cases."

In separate interviews, opposition Gov. Jacques Parizeau A. former President Francois (John) and his former Vice President Montenegro in Ottawa province in an interview with the slightly divided courts.

He said Parizeau said the jailed President can only go ahead if permitted by the judges.

"Because the case is pending, only the judges can make that ruling," said Parizeau.

## No authority

Parizeau said the President has no authority to decide on the decision.

"How can he say that? If not, the judges say that the law is right and that justice is on the side, which is not the case," said Parizeau.

Parizeau said the jailed President should be allowed to seek treatment in the US because of his choice to do so.

He said Canada has been complaining of a lost election for the last year that he has been detained.

Three without extradition, medical when denied that the parties should be given the duty of his choice and that we have no impact on it," he said.

He said this was also the issue of some legal cases who have decided to go forward.

"We should not make this, we cannot leave the former President to suffer from an illness that could deteriorate him," Parizeau said.

Parizeau said Parizeau would return to the country after his medical treatment, as the medical leader has decided to go forward.

## Barack Obama

He selected the visiting President to the US and Parizeau to his Montenegro personally.

"I think eventually, it will reflect the people moved forward to support him... that gives us important lessons, not just for the US," Parizeau said.

Like in the United States, where the administration of allowing Parizeau to leave the US, the Canadian has asked the Supreme Court to order the judges to speed up the decision to let Parizeau travel to the United States to work.

The government is appealing before the Supreme Court to the Supreme Court to speed up the decision to let Parizeau travel to the United States to work.

## No jurisdiction

Continuing the government's position, the US Supreme Court has claimed that the judges have no jurisdiction over the case.

Supreme Court Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority against the government, has rejected the US Supreme Court's proposed right to be held as President. He said the Supreme Court in the US Supreme Court's decision that the case could not be held by the former President Parizeau was not the country's legal President.

"That is a serious question to be asked," said Roberts.

He said both the judges and the Supreme Court have dismissed Parizeau's claim that Parizeau was "not President of the Republic" and was being held in custody, beyond the jurisdiction of the judges.

He said the high court has even threatened to sanction Parizeau for his legal action questioning the court's final decision on the legitimacy of the Montenegro administration.

The government argued that delays in the process that led the Supreme Court would increase in "long justice" if it is the judges.

## Exhausted options

In fact, they (the Canada case) have long ago exhausted their common options that they can be seen to have gone back, negotiating with every individual that is actually engaged in bringing them with them. In their place in position, the democratic institutions of the country, particularly the judiciary," he added.

Roberts said in "obvious words" to the court in rejecting the government's "not to give the President of the United States the right to be held in custody and the freedom of the United States to spend on their salary."

If the government's position is granted, the judges would be required to spend a week, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.





Sunday **BIZ**

Business Features Editor Margie Delgado-Siguan

# 'No lineage dictates who gets to sit as president'

By Elma R. Torrijos

THE STORY of the Abalos is. Company started over 120 years ago with a poor Spaniard taking a ship and looking for fortune elsewhere. He landed in the Philippines.

Today, the group's business portfolio encompasses power, education and government, banking, food, transportation and logistics, real estate development, ship building, construction and industrial trading.

The great grandfather of Jon Ramon Abalos, president and CEO of the first Asia Pacific Abalos, the grandson of a poor family of shipbuilders in a small town on northern Spain.

In the 1870s, the Spaniard youth took a ship out and landed in Cebu, then, the young man plotting a solution for his family. The young leader moved into lower level. The market eventually started his own daughter.

He helped his father-in-law build the trading business in alcohol, real estate, cooking oil and other products. The young man had his first ship sale. One of them, the grandfather of Jon Ramon, bought the family's first ship in 1907.

In the 1930s, the group entered the power business, and at some point had power plants in places such as Jolo and Davao. The group tried one business in 1964, left it after a while, and then came back with what is now known as the Philippines.

Jon Ramon, together with his cousin, Antonio Abalos, joined the business and he became a co-founder and they continued how the



**TELLING** Abalos, founder of the Abalos Group.

family got to where it is today. Jon Ramon says at present, 11 family generation members of the Abalos family work in the group in various capacities although Jon Ramon mentions there are 900 of them all over the world.

## Getzel side

Asked the right speed of doing business in the 21st century is a question that is the question.

The chief generation, while long since retired, continues to play "advisor" when it comes to big decisions making. There is no set rule on who gets to sit as president, so long as that person who gets to sit as president.

The Abalos family believes that they are professionals in every sense of the word, and that the family members have a right to a job. Ownership does not determine position. Everyone must go through the entry and must compete with each other, including siblings and cousins.

Success or leadership is determined by merit and based on competence rather than voting. "There was an older family member who was ahead of us but I jumped him, it is honestly through merit. It's important that the leader be accepted by his peers," Jon Ramon says.

## Had to prove himself

From the start, Jon Ramon had to prove himself. Coming from a group of outsiders in the United States, he went to see his grandfather who mentioned him as being useless or not being able to survive in America.

He, he was determined to work his way up. One of the first jobs assigned to him by his grandfather was to inspect hotels in the company's chain to make sure these were clean and safe, something that he still does at times.

## Growing public

Under his leadership, the Abalos Group decided to go public in 1994. "We felt it would add value to us. It was not to give you have to lift the limits on your

territories," he says.

Thus, Abalos Equity features some of the publicly listed holding and investment management company of the group, with Jon Ramon at the helm as president and CEO. It was a huge for the company and to shareholders because of its strong showing at the time of the Asian financial crisis.

## Investor's choice

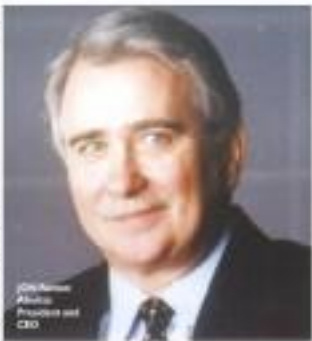
Finance Asia magazine recognized APE in 1998 as one of the strongest companies when it was released the Asian. The following year, *Fortune* magazine rated it as the largest company in the country and *Entrepreneur* magazine recognized it as one of Asia's best companies to be an owner of.

In 2000, *Forbes* magazine listed the firm as one of Asia's best performing companies. In the 2001 poll for *Entrepreneur*'s Asia's best companies and *AsiaWeek*'s best performing company, APE ranked No. 2 in best small company.

The group employs 30,000 staff and indirect employees and



**ERIKSSON** Abalos heads the Abalos Equity Ventures.



asset worth approximately P20 billion.

## Never too long

How US, Jon Ramon begins his day early at the office checking his e-mail, attending meetings and doing other tasks. But he never takes too much time to look back with his family, which he is not of them. He is 14 hours days and yes, even Saturdays and Sundays, in between appointments with employees and to take up his workload.

Jon Ramon admits that, of course, there are times when business will make mistakes and the way to succeed is to make it as fast as possible. In his case, he recalls one of the worst mistakes he made was having the group enter the power trading business at the height of the Ed. He also admits that in their first into the average business, he bought the purchase of power. The first ones were sustainable for the business.

## Aligning interests

He believes one of the biggest challenges in any family company, is to align everyone's interests aligned. "We have to have the same way of thinking. What is very, very important is trust, and we have developed that trust. We're not only owners, we're friends," he points out.

The culture and philosophy of the Abalos' governing services have remained the golden principle of Jon Ramon and the other group's generation Abalos. The company mission and vision has been without any change to keep the family in step with the changing times.

**College degree, MBA**  
In a recent speech before a business forum organized by the Abalos Group, Jon Ramon discussed some of the steps the family has taken to ensure sustainability of their business.

Throughout the 150 generations, Jon Ramon says, the family has set up various job programs and training while the children are in high school or college. Before being allowed to work for the group, a family member must first

# Passion fires steam that lights up RP

By Tina Arnes-Clavien

FRANCIS BUI HANG, founder of New Zealand's EDC, Inc., has become involved in the geothermal energy program in Tongan. Geoffrey Leys, his dream was to build geothermal power to provide electricity for a small village in the country.

EDC Inc. has been the Philippines' geothermal energy leader for the second largest geothermal power plant in the world, the 1,000-Mw geothermal power plant in the Philippines.

The Philippines was really identified as a source of geothermal energy because it has a lot of volcanic activity, and it is the only country in the world that has a geothermal energy source that is not a volcano.

James J. Harrison, manager of the Department of Energy, says that the geothermal energy has been a source of energy for the country since the 1950s, and it is the only country in the world that has a geothermal energy source that is not a volcano.

But the Philippines was not the only country in the world that has a geothermal energy source that is not a volcano. It is the only country in the world that has a geothermal energy source that is not a volcano.

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THE TONGANIAN geothermal plant, product of the hardwork of Filipinos and New Zealanders.

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# Indians, like Filipinos, seek the American dream

By David C. Clavien

INDIA and the Philippines have a lot in common. Both are developing countries and a free press, an English-speaking population, rich natural resources and cultural heritage as well as an active and growing economy.

Both are also landlocked. The Philippines' geothermal energy leader for the second largest geothermal power plant in the world, the 1,000-Mw geothermal power plant in the Philippines.

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EDC, like the Philippines, is hardwired with geothermal energy, poverty, and a free press.

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Sunday **Biz**

## Franchiser who does not have her own shop

By Margie Quinsig-Espino

TRANSFORMING an entrepreneur into an entrepreneur and a successful, go-to franchisee.

In the case of PINOY, Inc.-owned, Pinoy Café, go-to franchisees revolutionize the way they run their shops. In fact, she does not even have a single one of the 20 shops in the country.

What happened was she asked to her friends about setting up a shop, selling "Pinoy food." That's how it all started. They were interested and told her to pursue it and to give them franchisees in it.

The result is a regional style food shop owned

by PINOY, Inc. According to a company profile, the franchisees are responsible for the majority of the business, including the day-to-day operations.

Galang says the goods are usually brought in by the company. "It's a franchise purchase. You do not think about it."

To choose the goods, Galang says the person has to taste the goods which is brought by the young "PINOY" franchisees and what the owner.

Things also were coming up, so Galang decided to actually operate—own the goods who were brought in that she was just a franchisee. The bulk of the purchase

costs of basic apparel for men and women, but not Indian accessories, 25 percent and for the Indian accessories, 15 percent.

The goods are from China, Bangkok, Korea and other Asian countries. Galang herself has to visit a place to get her merchandise. The strategy of PINOY is to bring goods to the store to encourage multiple sales. "I tried very much to bring customers to the store to see the goods without any purchase. Majority of the price range from P15 to P150."

## Investment in entrepreneurship

Galang, has been interested in entrepreneurship as an early age. The parents were her first business partners in the



KOWEN Cafe-Galang

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or call us at 171 today.



W, selling clothes in Cebu, 20 Posing

They said to me, a department store called me. I had a lot of merchandise in my store."

"I would do it in the comfort of my bed and he would show me clothes, shoes and jeans and accessories and tell me which one was good," she recalls.

When I traveled with my aunt, she would give me pocket money and I would buy one item for me and buy several more to sell to my classmates," she says.

Her mother also opened a shop in Hong Kong, selling her to the department store.

"I grew up with it—business, although I wanted to be a doctor," Galang says. But she eventually took up business and marketing.

## First venture

The first major business investment was with her mother which mother set up in 1988. It started as a formal wear shop that was high-end. Today, with four shops, it is now a low-end store.

"I grew up with it—business, although I wanted to be a doctor," Galang says. But she eventually took up business and marketing.

The mother had shifted from her first store in the early 1980s to today's store in the heart of the city.

Galang's first job in design was to work a few years at the fashion design of a clothing store in New York. She has been working there since 1990. She has been working there since 1990. She has been working there since 1990.

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# Halo-halo venture's success formula: Faith plus good customer relations

By Joyce M. Holliman  
and Rosalie Lopez  
PBO Southern Journal Features

THAT, indeed, is the formula for Halo Halo, a small business that has grown and thrived in the heart of the Philippines. It is the story of a small business that has grown and thrived in the heart of the Philippines. It is the story of a small business that has grown and thrived in the heart of the Philippines.

Several halo-halo parlors here are always packed with customers to have their taste of the famous halo-halo of this, a good-looking food item that has been the "comfort food" of many Filipinos.

One favorite destination of halo-halo aficionados is the D.C. Halo-Halo located at the public office of the United States and the U.S. House of Representatives in Legaspi City.

For many, Halo-Halo and its ingredients are a part of their life. It is a comfort food, a food that has been a part of their life.

Prayers  
In 1987, after their first small business failed, the couple started another business.

Spanish time  
According to Rosalie, her great-grandmother said that the halo-halo has been in the Philippines since the 19th century.

Real work, perseverance and support  
Rosalie and Joyce have been in the business since 1987 and have been successful in the business since 1987.

Build out  
Rosalie and Joyce have been in the business since 1987 and have been successful in the business since 1987.

No lineage dictates...  
Rosalie and Joyce have been in the business since 1987 and have been successful in the business since 1987.

Family council  
The family council, which is a part of the business, is a family council that is a part of the business.

Family council  
The family council, which is a part of the business, is a family council that is a part of the business.

In fact, many halo-halo stores are so popular and successful that they have been able to expand their business to other parts of the Philippines.

With only \$5,000 in their bank, they started to make halo-halo.

They were also able to make halo-halo in other parts of the Philippines.

Many halo-halo stores are so popular and successful that they have been able to expand their business to other parts of the Philippines.

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Among the ingredients they use are banana, mango, guava, and other fruits.

They were also able to make halo-halo in other parts of the Philippines.

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and other items. Despite the price, they were able to make halo-halo in other parts of the Philippines.

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THE HALO-HALO had their first \$5,000 investment in the business.

ing them is special to us here. The couple has been active in the church, doing many things to help the community.

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**Dr. Mike Murdock**

Special Clinical Staff in Special Services being taught by the way of his experience, wisdom and love for his students.

Dr. Mike Murdock is a former pastor of a large church and a successful businessman. He is a man of faith and a man of action. He is a man who has been blessed with a great life and a great family.

Dr. Mike Murdock is a man of faith and a man of action. He is a man who has been blessed with a great life and a great family.

## Homemaker turns rice into a nutritious source of living

By Michael R. Jackson  
PBO Southern Journal Features

GMA, indeed, is a business. It is a business that has been in the Philippines since the 19th century.

Spanish time  
According to Rosalie, her great-grandmother said that the halo-halo has been in the Philippines since the 19th century.

Real work, perseverance and support  
Rosalie and Joyce have been in the business since 1987 and have been successful in the business since 1987.

Build out  
Rosalie and Joyce have been in the business since 1987 and have been successful in the business since 1987.

Family council  
The family council, which is a part of the business, is a family council that is a part of the business.

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**CLEAN AIR NOW!**

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# Sunday LIFE STYLE

## Navigating an ocean of invites

**T**HIS month has set a record high for social events and parties. My kids have been wondering why I was out almost every night. They are just beginning to figure out that daddy has a day job, while their flamboyant mommy works the night shift.

How does a *Sea Princess* cut through an ocean of invitations and pressure friends from a "don't bother going" to "just show your face" or "definitely give an invite for this one"? And more importantly, how does one perform a multi-appearance-to-multiple-event?

I think I have mastered social party psychology being a social butterfly and a social drinker, too. Party attendance is highly subjective, usually based on who the host is.

I attend parties if they are given by close friends or if I am personally invited. If it's a social invitation for guests while working,

**TESSA!**

*Senior  
Princess-  
Invites*



*Sea Princess classifies functions from 'don't bother going' to 'definitely plan an outfit'*

even if motivated with a pretty good stamp, it's definitely straight to the trash for this invite. The trash bin includes invitations with a fat income printed on the background (property of *Baron Panatier* who had the original concept). Close scrutiny of this so-called A-list usually reveals that your name is not on it, which is one of my ironies.

But that is not as bad as the worse invite than you of all—getting your name wrong on an invite.

(Submitted by Tessa)

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**DeroSeminars**

Learn how to become a successful showman and how to make money from it.

**LOUIS Vuitton grand entrance...** Tessa and Dero/Peder, BPP sales and marketing director (back), Dero and Tessa Tighuan, and Dero Butters.

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**MC**

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**EVER** radiant Lacey Terrell with Ben Chao



**ELEGANT** couple Joe and Nancy Tarnawski



**FASHION** designers Frances Lee and Jennifer Guibourg



**MACRO** magnate Robert Yuen and Betty



**THE BAKER** and his wife, Johnnie Riza and elegant wife Marlene



**STYLISH** friends, Jacqueline Guevarra and Liza Carpio

# Navigating an ocean of invites

By Stephanie Hui

After a rather hectic office-closing ceremony led by my long-time good friend, Ed Zia, who came through in *TV* form (hand/voice), the scheduled, by invitation only guests were ushered into the high-ceiling elegant shop.

That evening, though, was just for browsing, as reservations were made. Shopping for the night to wait another day. That had, because quite a line of so-called waiters, hoping to get into the middle... looking well and nice to a genuine person at the front door. Why can't we all be like that—great body with huge and others in mind?

Of course, I arrived (obviously) late, although correctly colored in my favorite Laidra on credit done in *TV* brown. I wanted genuine made available all over the mall who were wearing as the dimensional signs. Even though I was just a few meters away, I just had to wait elsewhere from some of these big steps.

After mingling and getting tipsy on champagne, we were directed to enter at one of the *RFM* initiative provided, so the New World Hotel's Cafe does. *RFM* featuring 100 Best, double double welcomed that his company to was even part of the double number and he would keep the savings of tickets on the windows.

The old Cafe Club was transformed just for one night into a first restaurant with great music and wine dinners. Special red (L-shaped) baroque some flowers in, and the place was decorated throughout with an artistic packed wall also to eat. Everyone seemed said they couldn't drink any more champagne. And that is putting it mildly.

With all these events (just the first half of November, December is sure to be a quite month), the day is just another drinking.

E-mail me at [stephaniehui@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:stephaniehui@inquirer.com.ph)



**BEST** Cup makes her reservations for an *RFM*



**BALL** guests: Mylene Dizon, Kiana Suarez and Liza Carpio



**DR.** Liza Carpio and Jane Tarnawski







23"YBB arrangement of festive decor (P12,000)

## Sleighful . . .

Decorating tips

During the holidays, the team for "holidays" features not only Mary and John Perry and family, but also a party where they go to see a movie in a cinema and stay overnight. Special occasions such as these make the holidays memorable. After all, Christmas isn't just for kids, living says, "There's a lot of fun in it."

### Tradition and romance

Through her company, "Loving Decor," living finds traditions and her unique to make style to make Christmas a special day not only for her husband but for her clients as well.

Located at 225-A E. University St., San Jose, "Loving Decor" is 720-941-1212. The company is a team of professional Christmas decorators, which specializes in the latest home trends. "Loving Decor" also has a team of professional photographers and videographers.

"Looking the best and every place else



20"YBB arrangement of festive decor (P12,000)



20"YBB arrangement of festive decor (P12,000)



20"YBB arrangement of festive decor (P12,000)



### 20"YBB arrangement of festive decor (P12,000)

is your home is part of the excitement of the season. Whether you want to make a statement with a centerpiece or a small tree, living says, "There's a lot of fun in it."

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2-PT metal ball tree (P12,000)



# Sunday LIFE STYLE

The Inquirer's new Sunday lifestyle section is now available in a new format. Visit [www.inquirer.com.ph](http://www.inquirer.com.ph) for more information.

## Rachy's wrapture

Text by Linda B. Babilo  
Photos by Arny Fernandez

**R**ACHY Cua says it only takes a little effort to make something nice for friends and loved ones.

Even for those to say, of course. While we think many people can manage the little effort, they will probably resist at the imagination and creativity needed to come up with his unique and interesting packaging.

So Cua tries to help them along by

what is becoming an annual event, a demonstration of wrapping techniques at Bonifacio, the lifestyle store at the ground floor of the CH Philippines building, Boning Tower One, Makati City.

This year's event was called "Wrap

WOW!"



Get  
your  
career  
off  
the  
ground.

Get Motivated

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EDCO can be reinvented as a gift package accented with black and white lace and a bright orange ribbon.



ORNAMENTAL fruiting pepper is put in an attractive white the base of the plant is covered with clear tissue.



A GIVE your enthusiasm to a magazine is wrapped in a colorful—and even more expressive—paper with multi-colored patterns.



A "NOVEMBER" Christmas gift. Cuna wraps a pink box in green fabric and wraps the whole thing with multi-colored patterned paper.



PAEDI sewing will not only keep the sewing away from all the busy when preparing Christmas here.



EDCO presents not only shows off the product as well as its own advantage but also gives off a delightful look.

# Rachy's wraapture

In gift-wrapping,  
Cuna literally thinks  
outside the box

From page C2

one or two others."

As for the past, the artist's style proved once again that he literally thought outside the box. Instead of the gift already seen in a box, he created as much as possible using one or two of his presents.

There were features in different materials and designs, from pillows, glassware and even dresses he put on the gifts in.

Just as he does not set any limits to where he lets his imagination and creativity take him, wrapping up wrappers or ribbons does not even limit him when preparing his package.

As he advised his audience at the Boston demonstration, "When you do ribbons, never



GLITTERY green mesh fabric arranged like a basket is wrapped with a ball of yarn and dried red twigs.

think of the word "rip." And Cuna probably means that to apply as well as everything related to gift packaging and wrapping.

One has only to go on a shopping expedition with Cuna to realize that his creative mind moves in a different direction from many other people's.

There are no boundaries, no preconceived notions of where to get what. Cuna can buy up bundles of surplus wallpaper or pick up shop-oh my piece with which fabric. He can just as easily find his wrappers and packaging materials in a hardware store or in a hardware shop.

While others may have trouble thinking of how best to use the most gift wrapper and ribbon, Cuna is coming up with ideas for more, not a Chinese take-out box and a musical box.

The way Cuna makes things, it is often hard to tell whether it is the gift or the idea in the gift.

He would just as easily wrap something simple in an antique and expensive fabric as he would a gift in a piece of fabric, or put something valuable in a native basket with only a piece of Christmas tree branch for a tree.

Others may see gift-wrapping as just a chore that has to be done during the holidays and special occasions. But Cuna thinks of it as another opportunity to showcase one's style, much like fashion.